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d and t as in English

ŋ is a combination of two English sounds d and j, or j in journey

j as the English y in year

j̃ is a strongly nasalized j; the vowels accompanying j are also nasalized, for instance, *ijá*, mother

k as in English

l as in English

l', soft l, as in German

m and n, as in English

ñ a nasal g sound, pronounced like ng in among

r and t as in English

s as in English. Between two vowels it is pronounced like the German h in Hans. For instance, *as*, food, and *aśā* (*aha*), to eat.

x as German ch in Bach

č as English ch

The consonants, g, ƴ, p, r, ñ, j, j̃, h do not occur at the beginning of a word. The consonants g, n, and p when used instead of k, do not occur at the beginning of a word.

Two or three consonants do not occur at the beginning of a word. All consonants may be used in the middle of a word with the exception of r between two vowels. The use of s has been previously noted.

The consonants g, ƴ, d, č, ʜ, j̃, h do not occur at the end of a word.

Two consonants do not occur at the end of a word, with the exception of t after r and l and k after ƴ; for instance, *tūŏrt*, four; *ilt*, carry.

Accent

Accent is constant in Yakut, i.e., it does not pass over from one syllable to another and is almost exclusively on the last syllable, like the accent in other Turkic languages and in French. Only a few words are accented on the first syllable, for instance, *subu*, this one. One must distinguish the accent of long vowels in the middle of words, in which the real accent falls on the last syllable.

Parts of Speech

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Morphologically the parts of speech in Yakut may be divided into two fundamental groups: the verb and the noun. The most constant and conspicuous morphological distinction between these two groups is seen in the use of the negative particles, *ba*, *pa*, *ma*, and their equivalents. Verbal forms may have these negative suffixes, but these are not added to nouns; for instance, if we take the verbal stems, *bys* and *kel* (to cut and to come), their negative forms will be *byspat* and *kelebit; bysabyn*, I cut; *kelebin*, I come; *bysappyn*, I do not cut; *kelbeppin*, I do not come. The nouns, *bysax*, knife, and *kelī* (*kālī*), a visit, do not have negative

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forms. On the other hand, the verbal nouns, *byɔalax*, having a knife, may have a negative form.

To enter into a detailed description of Yakut grammar would require too much space. We shall limit ourselves therefore to a brief characterization of the modifications of the Yakut verb, noun, and other parts of speech.

The Verb

We shall present the modifications of two verbs, a transitive and an intransitive: *bys*, the stem of, to cut, and *kel*, the stem of, to come, giving only the forms for the first person singular and plural, positive and negative, and the second person in the imperative mood.

Imperative Present

Positive Form

bys, cut (thou); *bysyng*, cut (you)
kel, come (thou); *keling* come (you)

Negative Form

bysyma, do not cut (thou); *bysymang*, do not cut (you)
kelime, do not come (thou); *kelimeng*, do not come (you)

Imperative Future[1]

Positive Form

bysɔ̄r, please cut later (thou); *bysɔ̄ryng*, please cut later (you)
kelɛ̄r, please come later (thou); *kelɛ̄ring*, please come later (you)

Negative Form

bysymɔ̄r, please do not cut later (thou); *bysymɔ̄ring*, please do not cut later (you)
kelimɛ̄r, please do not come later (thou); *kelimɛ̄ring*, please do not come later (you)

Indicative Present

Positive Form

bysabyn, I cut; *bysabyt*, we cut
kelebin, I come; *kelebit*, we come

Negative Form

bysɔpappyn, I do not cut; *bysɔpappyt*, we do not cut
kelbeppin, I do not come; *kelbeppit*, we do not come

Perfect Indicative

Positive Form

bystym, I cut; *bystybyt*, we cut
kellim, I came; *kellibit*, we came

Negative Form

bysɔpatym, I did not cut; *bysɔpatybyt*, we did not cut
kelbetim, I did not come; *kelbetibit*, we did not come

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[1]Called also by some authors (as for instance, Poppe), optative.

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Potential[1]

Positive Form

bysājabyn, I am afraid that I may cut off
bysājabyt, we are afraid that we may cut off
kelžjebin, I am afraid that I may come
kelžjebit, we are afraid that we may come

Negative Form

bysymājabyt, I am afraid that I may not cut off
bysymājabyt, we are afraid that we may not cut off
kelimžjebin, I am afraid that I may not come
kelimžjebit, we are afraid that we may not come

Conditional

Positive Form

bystarbyn, if I cut off; *bystarbyt*, if we cut off
kellerbin, if I come; *kellerbit*, if we come

Negative Form

bysпatarbyn, if I do not cut off
bysпatarbyt, if we do not cut off
kelbeterbin, if I do not come
kelbeterbit, if we do not come

Future Perfect

Positive Form

bysŋsybyn, I shall be able to cut off
bysŋsybyt, we shall be able to cut off
kelŋsibin, I shall be able to come
kelŋsibit, we shall be able to come

Negative Form

bysymŋsybyn, I shall not be able to cut off
bysymŋsybyt, we shall not be able to cut off
kelimŋsibin, I shall not be able to come
kelimŋsibit, we shall not be able to come

The perfect expresses the assurance that the action will be completed.

Verbal Nouns and the Gerund

Verbal nouns and gerunds are included with the verbs, as purely verbal forms. A verbal noun may serve in the sentence as an active element (subject) or an adjective (modifier). There are many suffixes (*ar*, *byt*, *tag*, and their equivalents) for the formation of verbal nouns, which may express the past tense (*byt*), past perfect (*tag*), future perfect (*tag*), future (*eq*), conditional (*bycca*). All these forms have their corre-

[1]May also be called optativus.

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sponding negative endings (*bat*, *batag*, *mып*, and their equivalents), and personal suffixes.

There are five forms of the gerund. The gerund has a slight sense of tense and is only in small measure invested with the power of modification, but it shares with other verbal forms the ability to adopt negative suffixes.

The Noun

That section of Yakut grammar dealing with the noun may be divided into three parts: 1, substantive and adjective; 2, pronominal; 3, numeral.

The Yakut substantive and adjective may be surveyed together, as there is no morphological or other difference between them. Besides, one and the same Yakut word may have a substantive as well as an adjective meaning; for instance, *elbex* means opulence and multiplicity and also opulent and numerous.

Nouns may be formed from nominal as well as from verbal stems, for instance: *oho*, child; *oholox*, having a child; *āt*, a name; *āttax*, having a name; *saxa*, a Yakut, *saxalu*, Yakut; *xotu*, the north; *xotugu*, northern; *bys*, to cut; *bysy*, the cutting; *sanā*, to think; *sanȳ* (*ȳ* = *a*+*y*), thinking.

Before giving the suffixes of cases it is necessary to indicate the endings for the plural. They are: *lar*, *tar*, *nar*, and their equivalents, for instance: *aha*, father; *ahalar*, fathers; *oho*, child; *oholor*, children; *at*, horse; *attar*, horses; *olom*, ford, *olomnor*, fords.

The Yakut language has eight cases: the nominative, partial (called in former grammars indefinite accusative), accusative, dative, ablative, instrumental, comitative, comparative. The nominative has no added suffixes, it is the stem; *asa*, father; *ū*, water.

The partial case is formed by the suffixes; *ta*, *da*, *la*, *na*, and their equivalents: *utā ahal*, bring water (meaning, some water).

The accusative is formed by the suffixes: *ny*, *ni*, *nu*, *nū*, when the stem ends in a vowel or a diphthong, and by, *y*, *i*, *u*, *ū*, when the stem ends in a consonant: *asany*, the father, from *asa*; *oyūnu*, from *oyūn*, a shaman.

The dative is formed by the suffixes; *ga*, *ha*, *ka*, *xa*, and their equivalents: *asaga*, from *asa*, father; *muos*, horn, antler; *muoska*, on the horn.

The ablative is formed by the suffix *ttan* or its equivalents, when the stem ends in a vowel or diphthong, and by *tan* or its equivalents when

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The instrumental is formed by the suffix, *nan*, or its equivalents when the stem ends in a vowel or a diphthong and by *ynan* or its equivalents when the stem ends in a consonant. *Asanan*, from *asa*, father; *oyūnunan*, from *oyūn*, shaman.

The comitative is formed by the endings *lŷn*, *lān*, or *lāry*, and their equivalents. The sound *l* may be replaced by the sounds *d*, *t*, *b*, or *n*: *oyūn*, shaman; *oyūnnary*, with the shaman; *dohor*, friend; *dohordoru*, with the friend; *uol*, son; *uollary*, with the son.

The comparative is formed by the suffix *tāsar* and its equivalents. Thereby the sound *t* is replaced by *d*, *j*, *n* depending on the final sound of the stem: *ohotohor* (from *oho*, child) in comparison with the child; *ojūnanāsar* (from *ojun*, shaman) in comparison with the shaman.

The Pronoun

Pronouns are personal, possessive, demonstrative, interrogative, and indefinite.

1. Personal pronouns:—

min, I; *bisigi*, we
en, thou; *esigi*, you
kini, he; *kiniler*, they

In the Yakut language nouns may be inflected as verbs when verbal endings are suffixed to nouns: for instance, *asa*, father; *ahata*, his father; *ahatabyn*, I am his father.

2. Possessive pronouns. The following are the possessive suffixes:—

Singular	Plural
m or *ym* (*im*, *um*)	*byt*, *pyt*, *myt*
ñ or *yñ* (*in*, *un*)	*hyt*, *kyt*, *gyt*
ta, *te*, after vowels and diphthongs; *a*, *e*, after consonants.	*lara*, *lere*

For instance; *min atym* or *atym*, my horse; *esigi akkyt* or *akkyt*, your horse (the *t* of *at*, horse, is changed into *k* before *k*).

3. Demonstrative pronouns are:—

bu, this, this one
ol, that
subu, namely this
siti, namely this
sol, namely that
sin, the same

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4. Interrogative pronouns are:—

kim, who?
tox, what?
ta, how much, how many
xoya, what (also where and how)
tōcō, how much, how many

5. Indefinite pronouns are formed from interrogatives by adding to them the particles: *eme, ere, dahany, da*; for instance:—

kim-eme, somebody
tox-eme, something
kim-ere, somebody
tox-ere, something
xoya-ere, xaa-ere, tōhō-ere, some
kim-dahany or *kim-da*, who may be or who may not be
tōcō-dahany or *tōcō-da*, how much there might be

The following examples show how pronouns are inflected:—

min, I
miexe, to me (dative)
migitten, from me (ablative)
miginnen, through me, by me (instrumental)
miginnīn, with me (comitative)
miginneser, in comparison with me
min is not used in the local case
siti, namely this
sitiniaxe (dative)
sitini (accusative)
sitinten (ablative)
sitinne (local)
sitinen (instrumental)
sitinnīn (comitative)
sitinneser (comparative)

Numerals

The cardinal numerals are:—

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1, *bir*	6, *alta*
2, *ikki*	7, *sette*
3, *ūs*	8, *ahya*
4, *tūört*	9, *tohus*
5, *biäs*	10, *uon*

The cardinal numbers from eleven to nineteen are formed by the addition to *uon* (10) of the cardinal numbers from one to nine; 11, *uon bir;* 12, *uon ikki; uon ūs*, etc. The cardinal numbers from twenty to ninety are:—

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20, *sūrbe*	80, *alys uon*
30, *etut*	90, *tohus uon*
40, *tūört uon*	100, *sūs*
50, *biäs uon*	200, *ikki sūs*
60, *alta uon*	300, *üs sūs*, etc.
70, *sette uon*	1000, *tyhycca*, Russian *tysyaca*

The ordinal numbers are: first, *bīris;* second, *ikkis;* third, *ūsūs;* fourth, *tördūs;* sixth, *altys;* seventh, *settis;* eighth, *axsys;* ninth, *toxsus;* tenth, *uomus;* eleventh, *uon bīris;* twelfth, *uon ikkis*, etc.; fortieth, *tūört onus;* fiftieth, *biäs onus*, etc.

The Adverb

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First, adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding to them the suffixes: *tyk, dyk, nyk, lyk*, and their equivalents: *cepcekitīk*, light, cheap, from *cepceki*, light, cheap; *kusahannyk*, badly, from *kusahan*, bad; *asahastyk*, openly, from *asahas*, open. Second, adverbs are formed from verbs by adding the suffixes: *bycca, bicce, bucca, bücce, pycca, picce, pucca, pücce; mycca, micce, mucco, mücce; yaxca, yexce, üöxca, uoxce*,—for instance: *kericei*, around, from *kerii*, to ride; *segecci*, half open, from *segei*, to half open.

Indeclinabilia

Under this heading are particles which do not belong to any of the parts of speech and cannot be modified. These are mainly adverbs and interjections, for instance:—

bala, much, many, abundantly
buka, straight, namely, finally, wholly
emiska, suddenly, unexpectedly, quickly
kücca, perfectly, entirely, completely, totally
ör, extensive, long
ötör, quickly, speedily
tuspa, separately
ulam, gradually

Interjections:—

aya, a cry of pain
beye-beye, a threat (be careful)
ökse, exclamation of surprise

To this brief sketch on the Yakut language, I regard it as useful to add an enumeration of the available Yakut grammars, investigations concerning special topics in the Yakut language, and of Yakut dictionaries.

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The outstanding work on the Yakut language is that of Böhtlingk. Although later authors, particularly Yastremsky, have introduced some additions and corrections to Böhtlingk, his work still remains the chief source for the study of the Yakut language. And it is remarkable that Böhtlingk, himself a specialist in Indo-Germanic languages, not directly interested in the study of Turkic languages, was never in Yakut Province. In St. Petersburg he met occasionally a Russian official from Yakutsk, named Uvarovsky, who knew Yakut perfectly, as do all the Russians living among the Yakut, and after several months' work with Uvarovsky, he was able to write his monumental work on the Yakut language.